

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 MC-02

AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12

L-03 EB-07 IGA-02 H-02 /084 W  
----- 024444

R 161950Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1419

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 9087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MAAS SHUM PE CI

SUBJECT: CHILE AND THE PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT

REF: A) STATE 224065 B) SANTIAGO 8740 C) LA PAZ 7926

1. OUR UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION IN THE MATTER OF PREVENTING A PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT IS THAT EXHORTATION BY ANY PARTY WILL NOT IN ITSELF DETER THE PERUVIANS. THOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY STATED, THIS WAS THE THEME IN REF B. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO SUGGEST TO THE CHILEANS HOW THEY SHOULD ACT IN THEIR OWN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, WITHOUT RISKING A DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE U.S. AVOID. WE NEVERTHELESS AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT ANY REASONABLE ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE -- THE INSTRUCTION IN REF A TO LA PAZ BEING ONE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUERY, THE EMBASSY'S REFERENCE TO A "HARD DECISION TO ACT" RELECTED OUR BELIEF THAT IF THE DEPARTMENT REALLY WISHES TO STOP THIS ARMS PURCHASE, THEN U.S. ACTION WILL BE NECESSARY. WE HAD NOT CONSIDERED  
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IT NECESSARY TO GO INTO THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO

THE USG. BUT HERE ARE SOME OBVIOUS ONES: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PERU'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BY INTERVENING WITH THE U.S. COMMERCIAL BANKS; THREATEN TO RESTRICT U.S. MILITARY AID OR EVEN COMMERCIAL MILITARY SALES; HOLD OFF AID PROGRAMS; TAKE A LOOK AT OUR POSITIONS IN THE IFIS. SUCH PRESSURES CAN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BUT THE PERUVIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REALIZE THAT MODERATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET.

3. OUR POINT WITH RESPECT TO NO U.S. COUNTER-OFFER OF PLANES TO PERU WAS NOT INTENDED TO RELATE TO WHETHER THE GOC WOULD OR WOULD NOT OPPOSE SUCH AN OFFER IF THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WERE THE SU-22 (REF A). AFTER ALL, WE WANT NEITHER A GREATER PERU-CHILE ARMS UNBALANCE NOR AN INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE IN PERU. WE WERE SUGGESTING THAT NO ONE CONCLUDE THAT OUR MAKING A COUNTER-OFFER WOULD BE THE EASY WAY OUT OF OUR DIFFICULTY.

4. FOR LA PAZ: IT WAS NOT OUR CONTENTION, BUT RATHER THAT OF THE CHILEANS, THAT THE GOB IS HOLDING UP THE NEXT ROUND OF REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION TALKS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION AMBASSADOR STEDMAN CAN GET.  
POPPER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PROCUREMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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